

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 13, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MASON made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 271.]

*The Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 19th December, 1856, with the accompanying papers, relative to the claim of John P. Brown, principal interpreter of the Turkish language to the United States legation at Constantinople, for additional compensation for diplomatic and judicial services performed by him at various intervals during the years 1838, 1839, 1852, and 1854, have had the same under consideration, and report:*

The Secretary of State, to whom the resolution was referred by the committee for information, in his reply, dated January 30, 1857, says: "As to the services of Mr. Brown, as chargé d'affaires from the 11th of April, 1838, to the 19th of July, 1839; from the 30th of July, 1852, to the 5th of July, 1853; and from the 19th of December, 1853, to the 31st of January, 1854, the records of this department show that, during those periods, he was left in charge of the legation, and that he performed the duties devolved upon him in a manner satisfactory to this government."

In regard to the claim for compensation for judicial services under the act of August 11, 1848, the Secretary adds: "That act has never been construed by the Executive as intending to allow diplomatic agents and consuls in Turkey compensation for such services."

Concurring with the Secretary, in his construction of the act of August 11, 1848, the committee are of opinion that Mr. Brown is not entitled to the compensation claimed by him for judicial services during the several periods named in his accounts; and they therefore recommend that that portion of his claim be disallowed. The claim for diplomatic services, however, stands upon different grounds; and being fully supported by the records of the Department of State, entitles him, in the opinion of the committee, to the difference between the compensation heretofore received by him, as principal interpreter, and that allowed to a chargé d'affaires of the United States. They, therefore, report a bill in his favor for that amount, and recommend its passage.

